

WORK OF THE LAW MILL AT ALBANY.

Review of the Legislation
Accomplished During
the Session.

Measures Designed to Help
Party Supremacy Passed
Without an Apology.

Five Hundred Bills Left on the Gov-
ernor's Desk to Be Disposed Of
Within Thirty Days.

WILL NOT SIGN MORE THAN HALF.

Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-
one Enactments Made by the Two
Houses—What the Principal
Bills Provide For.

Albany, April 30.—The Legislature which died to-day will go down in history as one of the most reckless that ever made laws for this State. The domination of Mr. Platt has been noticeable from the beginning and endured until the very end. There has been much political legislation, but the main object of it all was to secure advantage to the Republican faction which Mr. Platt controls.

The two most important laws enacted, the Raines Liquor Tax law and the Greater New York measure, were designed to obtain party supremacy. The new Excise law had that for its admitted purpose without excuse. The Consolidation law, in its present shape acceptable to many of both parties, was originally intended as an entering wedge, with purely partisan bills to follow. Owing to the public sentiment aroused the program was modified, but the Greater New York Commission which is to be will have as a milestone around its figurative neck the Lexow Committee. The establishment of this committee is almost certain to result in a lowering of the tone of the prospective commission, owing to the probable refusal of some persons whom the Governor desires to appoint to accept the now somewhat doubtful honor.

One unpleasant feature of the session has been the effort on the part of certain Republican leaders to make private bills party measures for the purpose of either enriching or satisfying these leaders or their friends.

Another fact that stands out conspicuously at this time is what many persons regard as the distinct failure made by Speaker Fish and Senator Ellsworth, the Republican leader in the upper house, to enable themselves to the members of their party. The 150 Assemblymen introduced 1,708 bills during the session and the Senate of fifty members introduced 1,283. The total is a trifling greater than it was last session, when the entire Legislature contained 100 members, forty less than as now constituted. When the Legislature adjourned last year there were 908 new laws and this year there are 414. Almost 500 bills, however, are left on the Governor's desk. They will have to be acted upon by him before thirty days have elapsed or they fall. The probability is that the Governor will not sign more than one-half of those now awaiting his signature. In this connection it is interesting to note that the Governor has not used his veto power once this session, but when he has found an objectionable bill, he has induced its recall by concurrent resolution.

MANY SUBJECTS HANDLED.

Almost every subject under the sun has engaged the attention of the law-makers this session. They have discussed excise, civil service, ballot reform, prison labor, good roads, corporations and bicycles with equal impartiality. Local legislation, touching on a score of other topics, has also come up and taken the same course.

Nearly every city in the State has been seriously affected by the work of the Legislature. Officers have been ordered done or undone to the extent of millions of dollars. For New York alone, provision has been made for the issuing of bonds to the extent of about \$10,000,000, and the sum total for the State at large will foot up to something enormous.

Aside from the corporation legislation affecting the cities, such as the Acetylene Gas bill, the various street railway measures and the proposed changes in the electrical laws there were the so-called Police Reorganization bills for Albany, Greenburgh and Staten Island. What the Governor will do with such bills is a matter for conjecture. Bills introduced for the purpose of purifying elections, of extending the scope of the civil service and of generally promoting the public welfare were strongly advocated by a few of the members, but seemed to serve chiefly for the amusement of the majority. They were either rendered harmless by amendments or were killed outright. It was only by the very hardest kind of work that the bills to protect the people from the oppression of the trusts could be passed, and even then it was necessary to watch them carefully to prevent surreptitious changes which would have rendered the measures ineffective.

Besides the Raines, Greater New York and blanket ballot measures, the Legislature passed bills requiring public accountants and horseholders to be licensed, provisions for the inspection of mercantile establishments by boards of health; a bill authorizing the factory inspector to inspect bakeries; the anti-trust bills; provisions for the employment of convicts as required by the new Constitution; bills for the more general study of the effects of alcohol and tobacco by public school children; a bill declaring that a bicycle is personal baggage, and must be carried free by the railroads; bills providing for the appointment of Assistant District Attorneys throughout the State; a bill to stop prize fighting, and a great variety of measures which affect only certain localities.

But little legislation affecting directly the corporations was allowed to stop with the exception of the anti-trust bills. The Mileage Book bill was amended so as to make the books good until used, and interchangeable among members of a firm or family. The Husted bill, changing the method for the storing of unclaimed freight and baggage, and the Andrews bill, compelling the elevated roads to properly light their cars, were the only other important measures of this kind that got through.

The bills proposed by the Nixon committee that investigated the surface railroads at a large expense to the State, were never heard of after they reached the Senate. The bill making the Railroad Commissioners

Sulzer Scores the Legislature.

To the Editor of the Journal:

Washington, April 30.

The worst session of the Legislature in fifty years has adjourned. The good people of the State will sleep sounder to-night, and feel more secure for the rest of the year. They have every reason to feel pleased and gratified that the riotous, partisan, opera bouffe legislature is at an end.

It has been a factional, political session from beginning to end. Its record is a black one where it is not a blank. It has disgraced the great Empire State and brought her citizens into contempt before the people of the whole country. It was elected as a reform Legislature. It made the very word a thing of laughter and of ridicule. It was elected on a platform of flattering promises and every one it did not wilfully forget, it deliberately broke. It violated every principle of Republican Government, and carried paternalism to the verge of madness. Its assaults on home rule, personal liberty, vested rights, and the exchequer of the large cities of the State are a menace to our civilization and an indictment against representative Government.

With an overwhelming Republican majority in both branches, it bulldozed, intimidated and threatened the constitutional privileges of members, violated every rule of parliamentary law, rode rough-shod over the rights of the minority, and resorted to the most outrageous and despicable tricks and tactics to enforce and carry out its nefarious schemes against the rights of man, and in the interest of the leading beneficiaries of the Republican party and for its perpetuation. Alas, the best laid plans of mice and men gang aft aglee! and the Republican party has written its own death warrant, and the people will sign it next fall.

The people will not forget this Legislature for some time to come. They will revoke its next election by choosing a Democratic Assembly by an overwhelming majority. The mad and ruinous ride of the Republican party is at an end in this State for some time. The people will not be fooled next Fall. They have the remedy in their own hands. No one who can distinguish a hole in a ladder doubts how the State will go at the coming battle at the ballot-box.

WILLIAM SULZER.

Ex-Governor Flower Outspoken.

East Port, N. Y., April 30.

To the Editor of the Journal:

The Republicans of this State came into power on false pretences. They charged certain things on the Democratic Legislature that they were not guilty of. They charged us with extravagance in office, and then immediately increased the tax rate of the State \$5,000,000 of dollars. They charged violation of the Civil Service law, and immediately began a search for spoils. They promised reform in the Excise law, and immediately passed one which interferes with the habits and customs of the people.

They professed to be in favor of abolishing needless State offices, and immediately make over two hundred new ones. They charge crimes and delinquencies of duty in city affairs, and increase taxes over seven millions in New York City alone. They use a hundred thousand dollars of money to investigate city departments, and only find a \$1.82 mistake, in the Register's office.

New York City and Brooklyn desire consolidation, but were and are fearful of the kind of government they will get. They want home rule, but thank Providence that the Sunday-school did not have time before they adjourned to formulate their plans of governing us by commissions. If the only issue in this State this Fall was their record, they ought to be beaten 200,000 in November.

ROSWELL P. FLOWER.

elective was also shelved. There was no legislation of any moment affecting banks, and the only important insurance bill was that providing for retaliation against the German companies, which was urged by the big New York corporations themselves.

LABOR LEGISLATION was also scanty. The bill regarding the employment of convicts, as required by the Constitution, mercantile establishments and the bakeshop inspection bills.

The good roads legislation and the measures affecting the street railroads were notable instances. The bill to make the Lloyds Insurance companies report their condition to the State Insurance Department was killed. Corporations killed Major McNulty's bill giving the State Board of Arbitration power to settle disputes. Politics killed the measures abolishing Coroners in the State. The measure turning over the "ater of the upper Hudson to the wood pulp makers and the Brackett bill giving the electric roads into the control of the steam railroads were defeated by public sentiment. The School Book Trust shelved the bill providing for free text books for the public schools, and the Asphalt Trust did the same thing for the measure providing that home companies should be favored in the letting of contracts.

The bill prohibiting "sky-scrapers" in New York, and that legalizing the old claim of Clark and O'Brien, of aqueduct fame, were stopped by too much publicity. By far the greatest setback given political legislation was received by the Brooklyn bills. After spending about \$50,000 in investigating, it was found impossible to pass the measures turning over to the Republican the Charities Department, with its several hundred places. The failure of this legislation is charged to Speaker Fish by the party leaders for reasons best known to themselves. So also is the failure of the bill reorganizing the Bridge Trustees, and that providing for a Commissioner of Accounts, which was a companion to the Charities Commissioner bill. The failure of President Clark to get his bill through increasing his salary, is laid to the Wurst influence.

NEW YORK BILLS PASSED.

List of the Principal Measures Enacted by the Legislature.

The leading bills passed by the State Legislature this session affecting the metropolis were these:

Providing for an additional issue of Dock Department bonds to the amount of \$6,000,000, of which not more than \$2,000,000 is to be expended in any one year; authorizing new buildings and additions for the Charities Department at an expense not to exceed \$1,000,000; providing for the laying of additional water mains from the Central Park reservoirs to Chambers street, at an expense of \$1,000,000; authorizing an expenditure of \$5,000,000 for additional public school accommodations; authorizing an increase of 800 men, subject to the approval of the Board of Estimate; the compromise School bill, providing for an addition to the Museum of Natural History, for which bonds to the amount of \$500,000 are to be issued; authorizing the issue of bonds for \$400,000 for repaving streets in the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth wards.

Bills were passed authorizing the rebuilding of the Tombs Prison and an addition to the Blackwell Island penitentiary, at a cost of \$800,000; authorizing the erection of public baths, at an expense of \$200,000; providing for the expenditure of \$350,000 for the improvement of the parks; amending the law for the Third Avenue drawbridge, so that it may be immediately taken down; the building approach begun; providing for a suitable approach and entrance from the Central bridge to the new Grand Boulevard and Concourse; authorizing the Dock Department to improve the water front at Gansevoort and Beutonne streets, also to improve the water front at Eleventh street, on the East River; also giving the Department jurisdiction over the grades of streets adjacent to wharves; providing for an additional auditor and deputy auditor in the Finance Department; increasing from \$150,000 to \$300,000 the sum annually allowed the Fire Department for buildings and improvements; raising the salary of the Public Administrator from \$4,000 to \$6,000; incorporating a company to build a bridge over the East River at Ward's Island, authorizing the issue of bonds to the extent of \$450,000 to complete Riverside Drive.

Measures were passed authorizing the Department control of the western part of the city.

of Ninety-sixth and One Hundred and Twenty-third streets; providing for the addition to Riverside Park of two city blocks in the immediate vicinity of Grant's Tomb; giving the Park Department jurisdiction over property immediately adjoining public parks, so as to control controlling boards; providing for the extension of Pelham Bridge; providing for the extension of Crotona Park for the use of the Commissioner of Street Improvements in the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Wards, at an expense of \$10,000; providing that the expense of widening One Hundred and Forty-ninth street shall be borne equally by the city and the property owners; authorizing the expenditure of \$250,000 for a new bridge at City Island; providing \$100,000 for a new bridge over the Bronx at Westchester avenue; prohibiting the opening of new streets through the grounds of the New York University; relative to self-committed paupers; authorizing the Police Department to determine on the disposition of the property formerly occupied by the College of the City of New York, at Twenty-third street and Lexington ave; providing for the extension of the Kingsbridge road to connect with Broadway by a cut-and-cover over the city at a cost of \$100,000; providing for the payment of the expenses of the Supreme Court Justices assigned from other departments to duty in the First Department.

Other bills provide for an increase of the salaries of the officers of the Fire Department; controlling the erection of statues and public monuments in the city of New York; increasing from \$150,000 to \$175,000 the annual appropriation for the College of the City of New York; authorizing the Board of Estimate to let the claim of John Mulhally for services in securing new parks; providing for the better protection of Battery Park; increasing the bond of the Clerk of the Court of Special Sessions from \$1,000 to \$2,000; providing for the payment of fines and for an accounting therefor by the Clerks of the City Magistrate's court; amending the City Magistrate's court; providing for the better protection of Battery Park; increasing the bond of the Clerk of the Court of Special Sessions from \$1,000 to \$2,000; providing for the payment of fines and for an accounting therefor by the Clerks of the City Magistrate's court; amending the City Magistrate's court; providing for the better protection of Battery Park; 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